

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7430

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 9004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PE

SUBJ: CALL ON PERUVIAN NAVY MINISTER

1. DURING A RECENT COURTESY CALL MADE ON NAVY MINISTER JORGE PARODI THE ADMIRAL EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO VISIT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY MIDDENDORF IN MUCH THE SAME TERMS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO OUR NAVAL ATTACHE CAPTAIN JAMES PARCE (SEE USDAO LIMA DTG 161705Z OCT 75). PARODI EXPRESSED HIS STRONG DESIRE TO RENEW HIS TIES AND THOSE OF THE PERUVIAN NAVY WITH USN AND HOPEFULLY TO HELP MOVE ALONG PERUVIAN REQUESTS FOR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT SUCH AS THE PENDING HOT SHIP TRANSFER OF A DESTROYER AND AN LSD. HE EXPRESSED HIS STRONG PERSONAL DESIRE TO AVOID GOING THE SOVIET ROUTE FOR FUTURE PURCHASES FOR PERUVIAN NAVY BUT INDICATED THAT PRESSURES WOULD BUILD UP FOR SUCH IF HE WERE NOT ABLE TO SATISFY PERU'S NEEDS THROUGH TRADITIONAL U.S. AND ALLIED SOURCES OF SUPPLY.

2. I TOLD PARODI THAT I SUPPORTED HIS PLANNED TRIP TO WASHINGTON BUT WISHED TO POINT OUT TWO ELEMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FIRST, THERE WAS THE OUTSTANDING MARCONA EXPROPRIATION ISSUE; IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT ANY MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM WOULD MOVE UNTIL THAT ISSUE WERE RESOLVED. THE ADMIRAL WAS AWARE OF ONGOING TALKS IN THIS REGARD AND RECOGNIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF WAITING FOR THE OUTCOME OF
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NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE VENTURING TO WASHINGTON. A SECOND CAVEAT

RELATED TO THE TYPE AND QUANTITY OF EQUIPMENT HE HAD IN MIND. IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF PENDING PERUVIAN REQUESTS AND TO GET AN IDEA OF ADDITIONAL FUTURE NEEDS AND THE CHANCES OF RECEIVING ALL OR PART OF THEM BEFORE GOING TO WASHINGTON. IN THIS WAY CERTAIN DISAPPOINTMENTS OR SURPRISES COULD BE AVOIDED. PARODI UNDERSTOOD THIS REASONING, DESPITE HIS OBVIOUS DESIRE FOR AN EARLY TRIP, AND SUGGESTED THAT NAVY ATTACHE PARCE VISIT ADMIRAL CARVAJAL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE NAVY, IN ORDER TO GET A PICTURE OF EXISTING REQUESTS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS AND THUS BE ABLE TO TEST THE WATER IN WASHINGTON BEFORE MAKING THE TRIP. CAPTAIN PARCE WILL WORK WITH MAAG TO FOLLOW UP.

3. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ADMIRAL PARODI IS ANXIOUS TO RENEW HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TIES WITH USN. WE BELIEVE HE IS SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO KEEP THE PERUVIAN NAVY U.S.-ORIENTED. THE BIG QUESTION IS HOW FORTHCOMING WE CAN BE AND WHETHER OUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO OUTWEIGH THE ADVANTAGES OF REPORTED SOVIET OFFERS. IN ANY CASE WE BELIEVE AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MAINTAIN OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERUVIAN NAVY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH CERTAIN SOVIET ACQUISITIONS MAY EVENTUALLY BE MADE.
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